



MARVIN PRATT

INTERIM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF INTERIM COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARVIN PRATT ON THE GREATER MILWAUKEE COMMITTEE'S "MAKE IT YOUR MILWAUKEE" COUNTY REPORT

"It's great to see this kind of concern and commitment shown for Milwaukee County by the Greater Milwaukee Committee. They clearly recognize that we are all stakeholders in Milwaukee County's future. We are of like minds on many of these proposals. Some of what this report suggests is already being done. There already is transparency and disclosure in county finances. We're looking at ways to pool health insurance with other municipalities. We are also already looking into ways to consolidate services with other government entities and we are working with the Milwaukee Public Schools to find ways to lease or sell unused properties.

"This set of recommendations is broad in its scope and leaves some questions. How do we get there and how do we ensure the delivery of services or increase services to Milwaukee County residents? Who is in charge as these changes are implemented? In many ways, this proposal effectively makes county government impotent, which I'm sure was not the authors' intent. Is that really what the residents of Milwaukee County want? What's truly in the long-term interests of Milwaukee County residents?

"For example, no one can duplicate the level of service we provide in Family Care and the Department of Aging, which serves more than 150,000 people over the age of 60 in Milwaukee County. What happens if these people are not served?

"Some of these proposals, such as down-sizing the County Board, lend themselves to referendum. But the main concern is that the residents of Milwaukee County are not hurt in the process of effecting these recommendations."